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NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL AND PEACE

By REV. ANNA GARLIN SPENCER

(Report made to its Biennial Convention in St. Louis)

This report must begin with an explanation of the failure of the chairman to call the committee formally together during the biennial period. Many persons declined to serve because of conflicting duties. The Council Committee had and could have no definite propaganda or differentiated plan of work under that committee head while our country was at war and when no League of Nations had been accepted; hence some felt that to name peace was untimely and to actively work for it unpatriotic after our government joined the Allies.

The chairman of this committee, in her private capacity, has constantly labored throughout this biennial period, to the extent of her ability, to lessen the war spirit, to protect conscientious objectors, to preserve the American birthright of freedom of speech, to oppose lynch law massquering as "love of country," and to help maintain universal good-will. She also, during last winter, gave herself constantly to work in behalf of the League of Nations, which was accepted at the Paris Conference. As chairman of this Council Committee, however, she has studiously avoided any attempt to secure action which would operate as a divisive measure in our many-sided household. She has functioned in this organization only as a suggestor of study programs and a reporter of action passed by the board of officers. She has sent several suggestions for class-work and personal reading to the officers of affiliated bodies. In December, 1918, a resolution endorsing the League of Nations as a beginning of world organization was passed by the board at its Washington, D. C., meeting, and was transmitted by the chairman of this committee to the officers of constituent bodies.

In lieu of great achievements in this difficult time, the chairman of this committee on permanent peace (and formerly the Committee of Peace Arbitration) begs leave to present the following resolutions:

1. Whereas the signing of the armistice makes it our duty to at once begin work to prevent future wars; and whereas although our constituency is divided concerning the legal and political machinery needed to substitute law for wars, but is united in the desire to make good-will universal and socially effective; and whereas, the peoples of those portions of the world devastated or crippled by war are now starving, diseased, and suffering to an extent never before experienced, and hence make an appeal to our sympathy and aid, which cannot be ignored: Therefore

Resolved, That the first and emergency duty of all our membership is to take part in the fight-the-famine campaign, in the save-the-children crusade, in order to help preserve the fabric of our Commonwealth.

2. Whereas our National Government has during the war fostered various agencies for the moral protection, the physical well-being, and the recreational opportunity of our soldiers and of young women in localities near camps and war zones; and whereas a continuation of both official and volunteer work in this direction is especially needed in order to make homecoming safe for the discharged soldier and for the general public: Therefore

Resolved, That we urge active work upon our constituency in any way open to them; to translate the slogan of war, "Make the men fit to fight," in terms of civil life, "Make the men and women of our country fit to be citizens," and to establish a wholesome family life.

3. Whereas this Council of Women has declared at previous sessions its unanimous conviction that civilization demands

the substitution of law for war in the settlement of disputes between nations; and whereas at the meeting of its executive board in December, 1918, a resolution endorsing the proposed League of Nations now under discussion, not as a perfect instrument, but as a useful beginning of world organization, was unanimously passed; and whereas certain differing positions taken by statesmen in our country make the present issue less simple than it previously appeared, and there is now evidence that the sentiment of the Council membership is divided: Therefore

Resolved, That we recognize with mutual respect the differences of opinion among us regarding the desirability of ratification of the League of Nations now under discussion, but we reaffirm our urgent demand for some form of concert of powers of council of nations, of League of Peoples which shall function through a world court, and a mechanism of reconciliation and practical interrelationship toward ends of international comity and world peace. We also call upon our membership to help in all possible ways to widen sympathy, restrain hatred and suspicion, and increase that unity of the spirit which is the bond of peace.

4. Whereas this Council of the United States of America has organic relations with women of many countries, not only through its membership in the International Council, but also by virtue of its association with special interests of women which are already internationalized in organization; and whereas we believe the women of the world are now called upon to play a great part in healing the spiritual wounds of war, as well as in giving aid and comfort to those famine-stricken, crippled, and weak in body: Therefore

Resolved, That we urge upon our Council membership the utmost possible support of the International Council and of other international associations and agencies in order that the loving service of women, stronger than an army with banners, may help reunite the moral leadership of the world, and to this end we would urge also the strengthening of the National Council as a large factor in the international work of women for the common good.

The resolutions were passed unanimously and with cordial approval.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PEACE SOCIETY

FEBRUARY, 1918-1919

Mary N. Chase, Secretary

In spite of the handicap of war conditions, I am happy to report that something has been accomplished the past year to promote international good feeling.

INTERNATIONAL MIND ALCOVES

Last year I reported that books had been sent to fifty libraries in New Hampshire as a nucleus for an International Mind Alcove. Mr. J. W. Hamilton, of St. Paul, Minn., conceived the timely idea that a section in libraries should be devoted to this purpose. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace furthered the movement by promising to send books, free, to any part of the world, as long as the supply lasted. They also agreed to send beautiful hand-made cards, the one on The International Mind to be placed near the books to attract attention. "The Basis of Durable Peace," by Cosmos, and "The Restoration of Europe," by Alfred H. Fried, are, perhaps, the most notable of the books sent, although all are excellent and up to date. I am pleased to be able to put on record that the books and cards have been sent this year to the following places in Canada:

McGill University, Montreal.
University of Laval, Montreal.
University of Toronto.
University Library, Halifax.